

everywhere lies hidden beneath the social fabric, and reveals laws of ebb and flow hitherto unsuspected. With the subtle judgment of a trained psychologist, moreover, he treats the subject with such consummate tact as never to weary the attention. He bears one swiftly forward on the current of his logic. One feels at once the impact of a magnetic and vigorous mind whose lance-pointed intuitions are ever controlled by sober judgment. Indeed, one cannot escape the impression that he holds a tremendously strong imagination in check whilst, with singular felicity of expression, he outlines the principles of his philosophy. These three brief essays, alone, sufficiently manifest his extraordinary acuteness of intellectual vision. It remains to be seen, however, to what extent his theories will gain acceptance.

His method is partly analytical, partly synthetic. His professed object is a reconstructive and analytical study of the psycho-neuroses. Perhaps the main thought may be stated by saying that just as in the reversed reactions of bio-chemistry we witness dissociation and reunion occurring in the same system, so, in the psycho-neuroses, there is a similar relation to primitive elements, which, latter, are to be sought in the sexual manifestations of infancy and early childhood. In other words, between the two states a more or less definite isomerism exists. The conception is brilliant and not without foundation. Like the mysteries of serum therapy, however, his theory draws us enticingly towards the unknown, only to emphasize at the last our utter dependence upon vitalism.

In these essays the author deals with general principles only. No account is given of his method of treatment. C. Q.

Diseases of the Anus, Rectum and Sigmoid. By Samuel T. Earle, M. D., Professor Emeritus of Diseases of the Rectum in the Baltimore Medical College. 476 pages with 152 illustrations. J. B. Lippincott Co., 1911.

This volume from the pen of Dr. S. T. Earle is bound to be of value to anyone interested in diseases of the anus, rectum and Sigmoid-Colon.

Almost since the inception of the American Proctologic Society Dr. Earle has been selected to review at each annual meeting the proctologic literature of the previous year. His accessibility to the Surgeon General's library at Washington has kept him in touch, and has made him familiar, with everything on the subject. One would therefore look to his book for the latest and best things gleaned from the field of proctology. And there is no disappointment, for throughout the book one can see, and marvels much at, the vast amount of literature that has been perused and edited by the author.

The opening chapter on the anatomy and physiology is brief but all sufficient. The illustrations of the fine dissections of Dr. Arthur Hebb, who has long been associated with Dr. Earle, are especially to be commended. A very good description of the inverted position for proctoscopic examination and treatment, as devised by Mathews and Hanes, will be found in the chapter on diagnosis and examination. To those who place much value on the use of spinal anesthesia in rectal surgery it will perhaps seem rather strange to read Dr. Earle's dictum that he cannot consistently recommend its use. The section on constipation is a very good one. While of necessity it cannot deal with the details to be found in such a book as Gant's latest work on Constipation, yet it will be of worth to the busy practitioner who above all desires *multum in parvo*.

Like most recent writers on this subject Earle advises that excision should supplant forcible dilatation, so much in vogue among the general surgeons, in all cases of chronic fissure in ano. It is with surprise that one notes the absence of any reference to Beck's method of treating fistulae with the injection of bismuth paste. This deserves mention even were

it only used as a diagnostic method in conjunction with the Roentgen rays. Earle's modification of the Whitehead operation, which does away with most of the objections urged against the latter is described at length in a well illustrated chapter. The illustrations of pathological growths are also all new and of much value.

Dr. Earle has drawn liberally upon, and very generously credited, the writings of the Fellows of the American Proctologic Society. After a labor of many months he has produced a volume that is an index of the scholarly attainments and professional skill of its author. It will be a welcome addition to the library of every specialist, and is a book that should be referred to with confidence by anyone who only occasionally needs its aid. A. J. Z.

Handbook of Electro-Therapeutics. By Wm. J. Dugan, M. D., Lecturer on Electro-Therapeutics in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Physician-in-Charge of Electro-Therapeutic Department, Jefferson Hospital; Fellow of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association, etc. 242 pages; illustrated. F. A. Davis Co., Philadelphia, Pa., 1910.

This book contains a good deal of useful information for the student, but for the advanced worker is too general in its scope, and obviously a scientific grounding in electricity is taken for granted.

The author tries to cover too large a field, touching on all forms of electricity, magnetism, vibration and X-ray.

Special attention is paid to the explanation of the electrical apparatus to select and how to use it. The appendix discusses some of the latest thoughts on death by electricity and resuscitation of persons shocked by the electric current. The work as a whole can only be recommended as an elementary book. N. S.

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